

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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DRAFTED BY ETF:RSBARRETT:JR

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 033525

TOSEC 217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR PINS ET US

SUBJECT; SITUATION REPORT IN ETHIOPIA AS OF
1500 HOURS (EST) FEBRUARY 13, 1975

QUOTE:

THE TWO AMERICAN REPORTERS WHO WERE ARRESTED AFTER TRAVE--
LING TO ASMARA WILL APPARENTLY BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE
COUNTRY TODAY, FEBRUARY 13. THEY HAVE INFORMED THE
EMBASSY THAT THEY INTEND TO FILE STORIES ABOUT ATROCITIES
COMMITTED BY THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY ON INNOCENT ERITREAN
CIVILIANS.

ACCORDING TO REUTERS A LEADER OF THE ERITREAN LIBERATION
FRONT (ELF) HAS SENT A MESSAGE URGING SUDANESE PRESIDENT
NIMEIRI TO DELAY TEMPORARILY HIS EFFORTS TOWARD A CEASE-
FIRE IN ERITREA SO THAT THE TWO RIVAL ELF FACTIONS CAN
FIRST BE RECONCILED.

THE OAU TODAY OPENED ITS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN
ADDIS ABABA. IN HIS OPENING SPEECH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
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PMG MADE NO REFERENCE TO ERITREA BUT THE GOVERNMENT EARLIER

IN THE DAY INDICATED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT
THE FIGHTING IS MORE THAN A PROBLEM OF BANDITS.

THERE WAS A BRIEF ERUPTION OF GUNFIRE AT SOME KAGNEW
TRACTS ABOUT 9 PM LOCAL TIME TODAY. NO AMERICAN
CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AND ASMARA IS ONCE AGAIN QUIET. INGERSOLL

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